# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:857
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2001
PRODUCTION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

**Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the 88th Indian Science Congress has given a `go ahead`for the production of genetically modified food to raise the productivity and nutritional value of the farm produce, as reported in `The Hindustan Times` dated January 8, 2001captioned `Genetically Modified Foods gets nod`;

(b) if so, whether the Government have accepted the suggestion of the Indian Science Congress;

(c) the steps taken or being taken by Government in this direction;

(d) whether its side effects have also been kept in view; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard ?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) to (e): In a Plenary Session of the 88th Indian Science Congress held on 5th January, 2001 at New Delhi, on GMOs and Genomics, various issues relating to genetic engineering, its role in agriculture, public awareness, biosafety issues and the needs of the farming community were discussed. It was brought out that biotechnology is a powerful tool for enhancing agricultural productivity and nutritional status of crops on an environmentally sustainable basis. The news item in The Hindustan Times is based on the above. Genetically modified food attracts the requirement of clearance of safety from Indian Environment(Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules-1989 governing the use of genetically modified organisms and products thereof. All genetically modified food is subjected to safety evaluation; based on the assessment on a case by case basis, government takes a decision. The Government has not yet approved any genetically modified food for marketing in India.